

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2297

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 10354

ANKARA FOR REGIONAL DEA OFFICE

FROM AMBASSADOR FOR S/NM AMBASSADOR HANDLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, SNAR, PK

SUBJECT: INCREASED DEA STAFFING FOR PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 193180

1. I HAVE REVIEWED WITH PERTINENT MEMBERS OF MY STAFF THE QUESTION OF DEA OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL NEEDS. THERE IS NO QUESTION IN MY MIND THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR OPENING A DEA OFFICE IN KARACHI. STAFFING OF SUCH AN OFFICE WITH ONE AGENT AND CLERK WAS APPROVED BY THIS MISSION IN SEPTEMBER (REFTEL), AS YOU KNOW, AND I HOPE YOU CAN URGE DEA TO MOVE AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS PRACTICABLE IN FILLING THESE POSITIONS. SAIC LEAP HAS SUBJECTED HIMSELF TO AN EXHAUSTING SCHEDULE IN RECENT MONTHS. DEMANDS ON HIM FOR COVERING OPERATIONS IN KARACHI AND ELSEWHERE HAVE COMPELLED HIM TO BE IN TRAVEL STATUS FOR PAST SIX WEEKS. HIS KARACHI OPERATIONS ALONE HAVE IMPOSED RIGOROUS DEMANDS UPON HIM AND HE HAS BEEN OBLIGED TO LEAVE UNDONE MUCH OF HIS NORMAL LIAISON WORK WITH GOP OFFICIALS IN ISLAMABAD.

2. IT IS MY VIEW ALSO, THAT RECRUITMENT FOR A SECOND
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AGENT IN THE KARACHI DEA UNIT SHOULD START AS SOON AS

PRACTICABLE. KARACHI IS A CRITICAL DISTRIBUTION OUTLET FOR ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING, ORIGINATING IN BOTH NWFP AND IN AFGHANISTAN, AND THE VOLUME OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IS VERY RAPIDLY INCREASING THERE. MOREOVER, AS YOU WILL HAVE SEEN FROM SEVERAL RECENT MESSAGES, DEA AND CONGEN PERSONNEL ALONG WITH PAK ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE MEETING WITH GROWING SUCCESS IN THEIR WORK--IN CERTAIN CASES NOTABLY SO. CONTINUED SUCCESS WILL BE JEOPARDIZED BY AN UNDERMANNED OFFICE.

3. I WOULD PREFER TO POSTPONE FOR THE TIME BEING THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL AGENT TO ISLAMABAD, ALTHOUGH APPRECIATING THAT THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL WORK DEMANDS STEMMING FROM BOTH LIAISON WITH GOP OFFICIALS HERE AND OPERATIONAL AND RELATED ACTIVITIES IN PESHAWAR AND OTHER POINTS IN THE NWFP. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO STUDY THE SITUATION, AND SPECIFICALLY TO SEE HOW THINGS WORK OUT WHEN LEAP IS RELIEVED OF NECESSITY FOR SO MUCH TRAVELLING TO KARACHI. BEARING IN MIND THE SPECIAL SENSITIVITIES OF DEA OPERATIONS, I WANT TO BE PARTICULARLY CAREFUL IN THIS AREA, AND ABOVE ALL HOPE FOR GREAT CARE IN THE RECRUITING PROCESS TO ENSURE BEST SELECTION OF PERSONNEL.

4. SAIC LEAP, WHILE OF COURSE SUPPORTING DEA PROPOSAL FOR A SLOT IN ISLAMABAD AS WELL AS THE TWO AGENTS FOR KARACHI, HAS EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING FOR AVOIDING A PRECIPITATE ESCALATION OF PERSONNEL AND FOR STAGING OUR AUGMENTATION OF STAFF.

5. I HOPE I HAVE IMPARTED SUFFICIENT SENSE OF URGENCY, AS I AM INDEED CONCERNED WITH OVERTAXING OF LEAP AT PRESENT TIME.
BYROADE

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